

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 ACDA-07 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /086 W
-----171432Z 078756 /46

P R 171231Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9043
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1274

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP, AG
SUBJECT: SPANISH RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA

1. DURING MY CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA FEB. 16
AT HIS REQUEST COVERING OTHER MATTERS, HE COMMENTED
THAT THE ALGERIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GRAPO AND THE
BROADCASTING ACTIVITIES OF CUBILLO DIRECTED AT THE
CANARY ISLANDS HAD POSED A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM IN
RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND ALGERIA. OREJA SAID
THAT THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN ALGIERS HAD RECENTLY
MADE A "SEVERE DEMARCHE" TO PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE
AND HE (OREJA) HAD ALSO MADE A SIMILAR DEMARCHE TO
THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR. OREJA INDICATED THAT THE
SPANISH COULD IN NO WAY ACCEPT THE ALGERIAN CONTENTION
THAT SINCE ACTIVITIES OF CUBILLO WERE UNDER CONTROL OF
THE FLN, THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT WAS NOT INVOLVED. THIS WAS
ALL NONESSENSE, AND THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT VIEWED THE MATTER
MOST SERIOUSLY. AT THE SAME TIME, OREJA DID REFER TO THE IMPORT-
ANT COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES WITH ALGERIA, IMPLYING THAT
THE GOS WAS RELUCTANT TO CARRY THE MATTER TO THE
POINT OF A BREAK IN RELATIONS.

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2. OREJA THEN INQUIRED ABOUT US RELATIONS WITH
ALGERIA. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WE PROVIDED ARMS TO
THAT COUNTRY. HE HAD ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT PRIVATE
AMERICAN INVESTMENTS IN ALGERIA HAD RECENTLY RISEN
FROM 100 MILLION DOLLARS TO NEARLY 200 MILLION.

3. I TOLD OREJA THAT HIS INFORMATION REGARDING

US ARMS FOR ALGERIA WAS TOTALLY FALSE. WE HAD CORRECT WORKING RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA, BUT THEY WERE NOT CLOSE. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY INVOLVING US PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. I COULD NOT COMMENT OFFHAND ON THE EXTENT OF US INVESTMENT, BUT WOULD TRY TO GIVE HIM SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. WOULD APPRECIATE SUCH INFORMATION ON US COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY AND INVESTMENT IN ALGERIA WHICH COULD BE PASSED ON TO OREJA. STABLER

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